REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendments, claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 13-15 and 20 have been amended to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by the Amendments.

Claims 1-4 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,016 (Jeong et al., hereinafter referred to as Jeong). Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(1) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,532,222 (Rege et al., hereinafter referred to as Rege). Claims 5, 7-9, 14 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Jeong, and further in view of Rege.

The present invention categorizes multi-paths into two groups: a verified group and an unverified group. As disclosed in paragraph [0045] of the instant specification, the verified group identifies the set of pilot multi-paths, which have been detected more than once and hence the probability that the multi-path is a false alarm is low. This group is used for finger assignment. The unverified group identifies the set of pilot multi-paths that have not been detected more than once. This group identifies potential pilot multi-paths where it is indeterminate as to whether the multi-path is a false alarm or a new strong multi-path.

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Jeong discloses a method and apparatus for managing multipath signals for a receiver with multiple demodulators. Referring to Figure 4 of Jeong, multi-path signals are categorized into categories including an assigned state 402, a potential state 404 and a temporary state 406. Each of the states is determined by comparing the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of a multi-path signal to a predetermined threshold.

Jeong fails to differentiate between multi-path signals based on the number of times that they have been detected. As illustrated by Figure 4 of Jeong, each multi-path signal provided by a searcher signal input 420 must be measured (i.e., detected) at least two times: once at step 422, and again at step 424, before being categorized (i.e., assigned a potential state or a temporary state) in a database. In either of detection steps 422 and 424, if the multi-path signal has an SNR that is below a predetermined threshold, the multi-path signal is rejected, and thus is not categorized in a database into a verified group or an unverified group. Thus, Jeong does not disclose differentiating between multi-path signals that have not been detected more than once and multi-path signals that have been detected more than once.

Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the features of amended claims 1 and 10.

Furthermore, claims 2-9 and 11-19 are dependent upon claims 1 and 10, respectively, and are also believed to be patentable over the prior art of record for the reasons presented above.

Regarding claim 20, Rege discloses apparatus and method for improving the assignment of parallel demodulators to multipaths of wireless signals. Claim 20 has been amended to more distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Rege fails to teach or suggest a path search vector correlator (VC) grid for receiving data from the first portion of the memory device and providing an output which is evaluated by a path strength measurement (PSM) process to generate evaluation results which are stored in the second portion of the memory device for access by a path position detection process, as recited by amended claim 20.

Based on the arguments presented above, the withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.
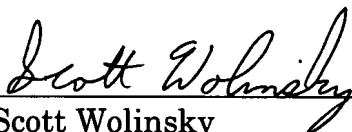
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing Amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-20, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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